

**TOWN OF DAVIE
WORKSHOP MEETING
JUNE 20, 2008**

The meeting was called to order at 12:07 p.m. and was followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Present at the meeting were Mayor Truex, Vice-Mayor Luis, Councilmembers Caletka, Crowley and Starkey. Also present were Town Administrator Shimun, Town Attorney Rayson, and Assistant Town Clerk McDaniel recording the meeting.

Pursuant to Council's input the previous day, Budget & Finance Director Bill Ackerman explained that staff had implemented Amendment 1 100%. Even though the higher millage rate made it appear as a tax increase, there were other factors, such as a drop in property values, that affected the millage rate.

Mr. Ackerman summarized the proposals made the previous day:

- millage rate based on Amendment 1
- implementation of a highway cost recovery fee
- 10% utility tax
- increase in fire assessment

Mr. Ackerman stated that the recommendations did not include layoffs or any reduction in services. He remarked that based on this proposal, the average savings per resident would be approximately \$35 per year.

Based on Council's comments, staff had recalculated using the current millage rate, which would reduce revenue by \$1 million. They had included the highway cost recovery fee and left out the 10% utility tax, which would result in a \$1.4 million reduction in the budget. Mr. Ackerman stated these changes could call for lay offs and a reduction of services.

Mr. Ackerman said each department was given a dollar amount by which their individual budgets must be cut. Departments had returned their recommendations for cuts, and these had been presented to Council. Mr. Ackerman pointed out that these cuts had resulted in some lay offs and reductions in service. He had presented Council with the budget revisions made since the previous day and the organizational charts based on the potential restructuring staff had proposed.

Mayor Truex thanked staff for compiling the information in such a short period of time. He felt it might be more productive if Council went through the information individually. Mr. Shimun stated that staff had intended to present the information today and reschedule.

Mr. Ackerman summarized reductions made by each department.

- Town Administrator/Human Resources
 - ~ removing the Administrative Aide position
- Town Clerk
 - ~ removing the special election
- Housing and Community Development
 - ~ reducing office supplies
- Development Services
 - ~ Code Enforcement
 - potential layoffs
 - removing some operating line items
 - ~ Building Division
 - potential layoff
 - removing some operating line items

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- ~ Planning & Zoning
 - potential layoff
 - removing an internship
 - removing other expenditures
- ~ Engineering
 - removing some operating line items
- Police Department
 - ~ removing overtime
 - ~ not filling vacant positions
- Fire Department
 - ~ potential layoff
 - ~ not filling vacant positions
- Public Works
 - ~ no layoffs
- Special Projects
 - ~ removing operational expenditures
- Parks and Recreation
 - ~ some laid off
 - ~ removing operational expenditures

Councilmember Starkey was not comfortable moving forward with personnel cuts or reorganization. She felt the reorganization should have been addressed at the goal setting session. Councilmember Starkey noted that Council had not been provided any justification for the reorganization, which she had requested the previous day. She believed this information would help Council make their decision. Mr. Shimun said all Councilmembers had been emailed an invitation to meet with staff to discuss the proposed reorganization and only Councilmember Starkey had not responded. Councilmember Starkey still wanted written documentation, including narratives from each department, so the information could be available to the public, and to ensure all Councilmembers were provided the same information. Lacking this, she stated she would not be voting for this budget.

Mr. Ackerman proposed that the next budget meeting be scheduled in July.

Mayor Truex advised that he had received an email from Karen Stenzel-Nowicki regarding some employees opting for a reduction of benefits instead of being laid off. Councilmember Starkey felt unions usually initiated this type of proposal.

Mayor Truex requested that for their next meeting, staff provide Council with a comparison showing the difference between the original proposed millage rate and the rate Council had agreed upon the previous day. Mr. Ackerman agreed. Mayor Truex clarified that a one-page narrative with the changes should also be included. Councilmember Starkey said the narrative had typically included department employment positions, overall operations and departmental objectives. She added that the Town Administrator historically included a letter with the budget describing his visions and goals for the coming year. Mayor Truex acknowledged that they were operating ahead of their usual schedule. Mr. Shimun said that Council typically received this information in August.

Councilmember Crowley requested an organizational chart depicting the changes in the Code Enforcement and Building Divisions.

Councilmember Caletka asked how soon the highway cost recovery fee could be presented to Council. Mr. Shimun said there were a few changes to be made, such as designation of the areas of enforcement and the fact that Davie residents would not be charged. He agreed to develop the ordinance for Council to review.

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Councilmember Starkey had calculated that for every \$1 increase in the utility tax, the revenue would be increased by \$58,560; therefore, if it were increased by \$20, revenue would increase by \$1 million. She requested that this be broken out for Council to review and reiterated that she would approve an increase in the utility tax if it were earmarked for water-related programs. Mr. Shimun said that if the funds were earmarked for those types of projects, it would not benefit the general fund. Councilmember Starkey pointed out that Council must also consider the long-term effects of the economy. She believed they could obtain grant funds for this as well, which would help support additional capacity for redevelopment in the Traffic Oriented Corridor.

Vice-Mayor Luis wanted to know how the layoffs would affect the Police and Fire Departments. Police Chief Patrick Lynn said that he was now considering not filling vacant positions. He did not believe that relying on a static “per capita” figure for police coverage was always advisable and he remarked on the uniqueness of the community because of the colleges. Chief Lynn acknowledged there were budget issues and he wanted to cooperate. He admitted that he would like more police officers and noted there were several special projects that could only be accomplished with additional personnel.

Fire Chief Joe Montopoli stated that the cuts he had been asked to make would put him in the position of having to shut a unit down. He said the Town was safe today, but they had given up positions and could therefore not grow. This would specifically affect coverage for the west part of Town.

Mr. Ackerman clarified Council’s directives to staff prior to the next workshop:

- update the narratives
- update cost sheet with alternatives
- update organizational charts
- meet with Councilmembers individually

There being no further business to discuss and no objections, the meeting was adjourned at 1:05 p.m.

Approved _____

Mayor/Councilmember

Town Clerk